

## Page 1 of 1

**MID0034**

**"Council members said they want federal officials to meet five conditions before they could consider supporting the facility."**

members said federal officials should consider the facility."

conditional in essentially the same way that Raleigh's opposition to the project is. Davison reiterated that the NBAF proposal will not be

A 60-day window for public comment will follow the release of Homeland Security's draft EIS in late spring. The final EIS is expected in late summer or fall, and it likely will be accompanied by a final site decision by Homeland Security officials.

My concern all along with locating the federal government's National Bio- and Bio-Defense Facility in Athens has been the ruling: rush to support it without sufficient information and caution. Trust as an issue; become a greater concern, with the Reagan federal government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention facility in Atlanta completed in 2005 not yet found to be operable, and the withholding of a CDC report on Great Lakes pollution silt threatening

the greater Athens community

**Disease lab could be terrorist target**

DHS notes the information submitted by the commentor.

## Anonymous MD0036, Anonymous MD0036

Page 1 of 1

MD0036

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Locating NBAF in Athens  
would come at great cost**

As a Tuesday letter to the editor contended, opposition to siting the proposed National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility in Athens-Clarke County should be focused on local decision-makers, because the majority of area citizens didn't consent to any invitation to the federal Department of Homeland Security to locate potential pestilence in our midst.

Homeowners should be duly concerned, and not because of alarmists, but because of evidence. Politicians have tried to ignore genuine concerns with the hope that critics would just go away. Many people, legitimately concerned about the slow local economy, are tempted by golden promises regarding NBAF. The spectacle of seeing academics losing objectivity through exaggeration about NBAF, and favoring secrecy, hasn't been pretty to watch.

One need not go beyond statements within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement released by DHS that indicate wildlife, vegetation, agriculture and human populations provide ample opportunity for viruses to spread rapidly in the event of a release. Mosquitoes infected with pathogenic organisms could lead to a "permanent reservoir of virus." According to the draft statement, NBAF would be safer for animal and human populations if located offshore — particularly at Plum Island, N.Y.

Local NBAF proponents point to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta as an example of a safe research facility. Recent news stories, however, have exposed problems with power outages and air leaks.

In addition, estimates of water consumption at NBAF have grown from 28,000 gallons per day to 43 million gallons per year. What will happen to property values in the Athens area when possible threats to safety are added to drought conditions?

While there is no doubt NBAF construction and employment eventually would bring money to the area, the requirements for infrastructure additions and changes inevitably would require an unknown, immediate increase in taxation.

Economic and academic enhancements should be pursued when they are in the best interests of our wonderful community. But how many risks, and what costs, must be borne by a community in pursuit of illusory benefits? Clearly, the NBAF proposal is one best left on the doorstep.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 27.0

DHS notes the information submitted by the commentor.

1| 27.0

Anonymous MD0042, Anonymous MD0042

Page 1 of 1

MD0042

1/25.2

Here's another reason we  
don't want NBAF in Georgia.

Nation

Page A3

ALLEGEDLY KILLED 5 WITH LACED LETTERS IN 2001

## Anthrax suspect commits suicide

By Matt Apuzzo and  
Lara Jakes Jordan  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anthrax-laced letters that killed five people and severely rattled the post-9/11



IVINS

Friday. The brilliant but troubled scientist committed suicide this week, knowing prosecutors were closing in. The sudden naming

of scientist Bruce E. Ivins as the top — and perhaps only — suspect in the anthrax attacks marks the latest

bizarre twist in a case that has confounded the FBI for nearly seven years. Last month, the Justice Department cleared Ivins' colleague, Steven Hatfill, who had been wrongly suspected in the case, and paid him \$5.8 million.

Ivins worked at the Army's biological warfare labs at Fort Detrick, Md., for 18 years until his death Tuesday. He was one of the

AT ONLINEATHENS.COM

■ Watch video as the Associated Press reports on the suicide of an Army biologist suspected in the anthrax attacks by clicking on this story at [onlineathens.com](http://onlineathens.com).

government's leading scientists researching vaccines and cures for anthrax exposure. But he also had a long history of homicidal threats, according to papers filed last week in local court by a social worker.

The letters contained anthrax powder were sent on the heels of the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and turned up at congressional offices, newsrooms and elsewhere, leaving a deadly trail through offices on the way. The powder killed five, sent numerous victims to hospital, caused near panic locations.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentator's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

## Anonymous MD0084, Anonymous MD0084

Page 1 of 1

MD0084

To Whom It May (Hopefully) Concern,

1| 25.3 | As a lifelong resident of [REDACTED] (not just some Yankee TRANSPLANT trying to protect their property values), I would like to take this opportunity to voice my complete and unequivocal OPPOSITION to the proposed NBAF facility even being considered for locating in Butner, NC. I have attended every public meeting/forum regarding the aforementioned site, and have heard absolutely no viable argument from your so-called "experts" to change my opinion in this regard. Considering what a JOKE the Department of Homeland Security is anyway, you certainly have no business in [REDACTED], you are not welcome here, and you will be met with continued, well-organized and outspoken resistance.

1 cont.| 25.3 | Stay Out of Granville County, NBAF!

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

## Anonymous MD0126, Anonymous MD0126

## Page 1 of 2

MD0126

**AG disparages Plum Island option**

Today

1/27/08

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has filed formal comments with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, outlining alleged inadequacies in a draft environmental impact statement on a proposed federal National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility on Plum Island.

Plum Island, eight miles off the Connecticut shore, is one of six sites targeted by the federal government for a proposed Level 4 NBAF, the highest security designation, that would allow study of some of the deadliest biological threats to humans. Plum Island now operates as a Level 3 facility involving only animal-to-animal pathogens.

Blumenthal said the federal government's draft environmental impact statement is "**profoundly deficient, and legally insufficient**," failing to fully consider the overwhelming risks of this facility, in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Blumenthal said Plum Island should be immediately removed from the list of considered sites.

"Although Plum Island has long hosted research into animal disease, the new facility would take the public health threat literally to a new level," Blumenthal said in a statement. "**The environmental security risks are intolerable in an area so densely populated, heavily traveled and environmentally valued. The threat of accident or attack is hardly hypothetical or speculative, as recent experience has taught to our sorrow. These dangers are real and substantial, and have not been adequately considered.**"

8/21/2008

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 27.0

DHS notes the information provided by the commentor.

## Anonymous MD0126, Anonymous MD0126

Page 2 of 2

MD0126

**ASSAULT ON SIMONTON BRIDGE ROAD**

It is understandable that ACC Commissioner Hoard's committee and other persons in Athens are anxious to preserve the lovely streets and homes on Milledge. This would help maintain the property values in that neighborhood and please all citizens.

Some of us feel the same way about Simonton Bridge Road, with its pastoral views and rural character. The construction of a four-lane highway from Whitehall Road to Main in Watkinsville would be disruptive for years, destroy much beautiful land, reduce home values, and hurt business. Under these circumstances, it might be equally preferable to make upper Milledge the NBAF location. Why one and not the other?

It would seem only fair then, that a coin should be flipped with NBAF going to the winner. An upper Milledge location would be convenient to university empire builders and scientists so eager to study infectious diseases. Sewer and water lines are already present, and it would be easy to add an incinerator. The old mansions of upper Milledge could be converted to dormitories for construction workers, as a contribution by Athens to economic development.

Why is this not funny?




JAMES MOUNTAIN

1  
cont.  
27.0

## Anonymous MSD005, Anonymous MSD005

Page 1 of 2

MSD005



## National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Form

Personal information is optional as this document is part of the public record and may be reproduced in its entirety in the final National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Environmental Impact Statement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mississippi is a great place for this facility.  
Madison County is a great place to live & work.  
Great schools, weather, & people are friendly.  
We welcome you!*

*The EIS statement shows us very favorably.  
The "moderate" assignment for the "view",  
is in the eyes of the beholder. The footprint of  
the building would fit well here. We have  
prominent building & jobs & scientists.  
We have a wonderful Research Station  
in Stennisville Mississippi with world class  
scientists who could collaborate. They  
study Mosquitoes (vectors) and biological  
-transgenic insects etc.*

*ARS also has a pretty*

(Continued on back for your convenience)

NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY  
Science and Technology Directorate/Office of National Laboratories

1/24.5

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.5

DHS notes the commentator's support for the Flora Industrial Park Site Alternative.

## Anonymous MSD005, Anonymous MSD005

Page 2 of 2

MSD005

Poultry Research Unit at Mississippi State which works on vaccine development. The state has a great airport in Jackson, a Brand new Veterinary Diagnostic Lab - a fantastic research program at the Veterinary School.

Stoneville ARS has a wonderful genomics Lab with state of the art equipment for collaborative studies.

Come to Flora - We welcome this facility - we embrace the opportunity. The Country Needs this research. I support the mission and building.

The Flora Community offers a diverse environment with a diverse population + great weather + Cultural + outdoors activity.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMENTS

Please return this form to the comment table. It may also be mailed or faxed as follows:

## U.S. MAIL

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Science and Technology Directorate  
James V. Johnson  
Mail Stop #2100  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Building 410  
Washington, DC 20528

## TOLL-FREE FAX

1-866-508-NBAF (6223)

1|24.5  
(cont.)



## Anonymous NCD018, Anonymous NCD018

Page 1 of 1

NBAF QUESTION - PLEASE, ONE QUESTION PER CARD	
To assist the facilitator, please indicate the topic of your question:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Accidents, threats or risk <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality or noise <input type="checkbox"/> Biological or cultural resources <input type="checkbox"/> NBAF purpose or alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Design, construction, or operation <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental justice or socioeconomic	<input type="checkbox"/> Geology or soils <input type="checkbox"/> Waste management <input type="checkbox"/> Human health and safety <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Land use or visual resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Decommission or mitigation actions <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory compliance <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic or transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Water resources <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Question: _____	
1/2.0	<p>When asked - A number of times <del>times</del> <sup>is February</sup> - about the possibility of weapons work - you've repeatedly asserted you won't do it because it's illegal. Has the federal government ever broken the law in the past?</p>
(Continued on back for your convenience)	

Comment No: 1


Issue Code: 2.0

DHS's mission is to study foreign animal and zoonotic (transmitted from animals to humans) diseases that threaten our agricultural livestock and agricultural economy. The purpose of the NBAF would be to develop tests to detect foreign animal and zoonotic diseases and develop vaccines (or other countermeasures such as antiviral therapies) to protect agriculture and food systems in the United States. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that future work would be conducted on strictly human pathogens.

## Anonymous NCD022, Anonymous NCD022

Page 1 of 1

NCD022



## National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Form

**Personal information is optional as this document is part of the public record and may be reproduced in its entirety in the final National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility Environmental Impact Statement.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: home owner, landowner

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: Rougemont State: NC Zip Code: 27592

Comments: stay on Plum Island! In addition to greatly lowering property values, this lab endangers livestock and the native animals in our area. Would you like to live near this proposed facility? WE don't!

(Continued on back for your convenience)

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2

Issue Code: 21.3

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding property values. There is no empirical evidence that a facility such as the NBAF would reduce property values in the study area.

DHS notes the commentors concern about local livestock and animals. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art operating procedures and biocontainment features to minimize the potential for laboratory-acquired infections and accidental releases. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF then site-specific protocols and emergency response plans would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies that would consider the diversity and density of human, livestock, and wildlife populations residing within the area. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the NBAF. Section 3.8.9 of the NBAF EIS addresses existing and potentially applicable response plans that provide insight into some of the livestock and wildlife protective and mitigating measures that could be employed in the event of a pathogen release from the NBAF.

Comment No: 3

Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0008, Anonymous PD0008

## Page 1 of 1

PD0008

July 4, 2008

1| 25.4 I think it's absolutely ludicrous to put the BSL-4 land in tornado alley Kansas or cattle  
 2| 25.6 country Texas. Keep it right on Plum Island where it's been safe, and that's the only  
 3| 24.1 place to put it.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding potential tornado impacts to the NBAF. The NBAF would be designed to withstand the normal meteorological conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site. The basis for establishing the anticipated wind speeds were the International Building Code, ASCE 7 and the local jurisdictions. However, because of code specified building importance modification factors and normal factors of safety incorporated into the structural design, the facility would resist wind pressures up to 170% of the code specified 50-year wind pressures. This means the building's structural system could resist a wind speed that is expected to occur, on the average, only once in a 500 year period.

In the unlikely event that a 500-year wind storm strikes the facility, the exterior walls and roofing of the building would likely fail first, and this breach in the exterior skin would cause a dramatic increase in internal pressures leading to further failure of the building's interior and exterior walls. The loss of these architectural wall components would decrease the overall wind loading applied to the building and therefore diminish the possibility of damage to the building's primary structural system. Even with the failure of these interior and exterior wall systems under an extreme wind loading event, the robust construction used to construct BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces, reinforced cast-in-place concrete walls, would resist these wind forces and the primary bio-containment envelope would not be breached. The containment walls will be designed to withstand a 200 mph wind load, which is equivalent to an F3 tornado according to the FEMA Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters standards.

Comment No: 2 Issue Code: 25.6

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS investigate the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. DHS cannot guarantee that the NBAF would never experience an accident; however, the risk of an accidental release of a pathogen from the NBAF is extremely low. The economic impact of an accidental release, including the impact on the livestock-related industries, is presented in Section 3.10.9 and Appendix D. The major economic effect from an accidental release of a pathogen would be a potential ban on all U.S. livestock products until the country was determined to be disease-free.

Comment No: 3 Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0009, Anonymous PD0009

## Page 1 of 1

PD0009

July 5, 2008

Hi,

- 1| 25.2 | I just want you to know I am a [REDACTED] and I live in [REDACTED] Georgia. It's a  
 2| 7.2 | very beautiful and rural town in north Georgia, and we are opposed to the bio terror lab.  
 3| 15.2 | We think that it will not only be a visual nuisance, but is also not in the best interest of  
 4| 25.0 | the Athens area, and the community, and the students as well.  
 5| 15.2 | The effect that it has on the environment, the school systems nearby, the water usage –  
 6| 12.2 | we are very opposed to it and will do everything in our power to try and get a different  
 7| 25.2 | location for the lab because we do not want it in Athens.

Thanks.

Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 7.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the visual effects of the NBAF which are described in Section 3.2 of the NBAF EIS. DHS recognizes that the NBAF would be a distinctive visible feature and would alter the visual aesthetics of the area.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 15.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern of effects in school systems. The effects on the community including schools are discussed in Section 3.10. The effects to schools and other quality of life resources would be minimal, since the number of new employees from the NBAF would be between 250 and 350, most of which would relocate from outside of the region.

Comment No: 4      Issue Code: 25.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the NBAF.

Comment No: 5      Issue Code: 15.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern. Adverse effects to quality-of-life resources would not be expected with any of the site alternatives and are discussed in Section 3.10 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 6      Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the proposed water use and existing water supply. Section 3.3 includes an evaluation of infrastructure including potable water, and Section 3.7 includes an evaluation of water resources. As stated in Section 3.3.3.3.1, there is adequate capacity of 43,000,000 gallons per year, but some infrastructure improvements would be required. DHS acknowledges that drought conditions exist in the region, but the NBAF would only account for a minor increase in water use compared to recent development trends.

Comment No: 7      Issue Code: 25.2

Please see response to Comment No. 1.

## Anonymous PD0011, Anonymous PD0011

## Page 1 of 1

PD0011

July 9, 2008

- 1| 5.0 | I found that the Government Accountability Office has stated that the National Bio and  
 2| 21.4 | Agro Defense Facility is best put on an island. And being a native Kansan, and having  
 3| 25.4 | had tornados of magnitude 5 wipe out the town of Green, and actually hit a Kansas State  
 University, I find that it is very unsafe to have that facility built in a university town in  
 Kansas. And so, I am against having that facility built in Kansas.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the five mainland site alternatives. It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. An example is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, where such facilities employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 21.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding potential tornado impacts to the NBAF. The NBAF would be designed to withstand the normal meteorological conditions that are present within the geographic area of the selected site. The basis for establishing the anticipated wind speeds were the International Building Code, ASCE 7 and the local jurisdictions. However, because of code specified building importance modification factors and normal factors of safety incorporated into the structural design, the facility would resist wind pressures up to 170% of the code specified 50-year wind pressures. This means the building's structural system could resist a wind speed that is expected to occur, on the average, only once in a 500 year period.

In the unlikely event that a 500-year wind storm strikes the facility, the exterior walls and roofing of the building would likely fail first, and this breach in the exterior skin would cause a dramatic increase in internal pressures leading to further failure of the building's interior and exterior walls. The loss of these architectural wall components would decrease the overall wind loading applied to the building and therefore diminish the possibility of damage to the building's primary structural system. Even with the failure of these interior and exterior wall systems under an extreme wind loading event, the robust construction used to construct BSL-3Ag and BSL-4 spaces, reinforced cast-in-place concrete walls, would resist these wind forces and the primary bio-containment envelope would not be breached. The containment walls will be designed to withstand a 200 mph wind load, which is equivalent to an F3 tornado according to the FEMA Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters standards.

Comment No: 3Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0012, Anonymous PD0012

## Page 1 of 1

PD0012

July 9, 2008

Hi,

1| 25.2 | I live in [REDACTED] Georgia. I'm a private citizen, not connected with anything, but I am totally opposed to having this site here.

2| 24.1 | Plum Island is a much safer site. I fear for myself and my family. More than that, we are in a serious, serious drought. We can't even flush our toilets. We're restricted with outdoor watering and using our washing machines, etc. The NBAF will need 118,000 gallons of water a day. They will be robbing the citizens of Athens [REDACTED] daily water.

1 cont.| 25.2 | Please don't come here. We do not want you.

Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site in favor of the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's drought concerns and acknowledges current regional drought conditions. As described in Section 3.7.3.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative would use approximately 118,000 gallons per day of potable water, an amount that is approximately 0.76% of Athens' current annual average of 15.5 million gallons per day usage. The NBAF annual potable water usage is expected to be approximately equivalent to the amount consumed by 228 residential homes.

**Anonymous PD0013, Anonymous PD0013**

**Page 1 of 1**

**PD0013**

July 9, 2008

1| 25.4

I'm from Kansas, and I'd like to say that I oppose bringing the NBAF to the KSU campus.

I do not think it is a safe place to have this facility.

Thank you.

Bye.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0014, Anonymous PD0014

## Page 1 of 1

PD0014

July 9, 2008

Hello,

1| 25.2 | I'm calling because I'm opposed to your having the site here in Athens, Georgia. My friends are opposed. My family is opposed. I'm sure you'll be hearing from them too.

Even David Lee of the University of Georgia, who was gungho on having it here, has said that he favors building the facility on Plum Island because that is safer than having it here in Athens, Georgia.

2| 19.2 | I live [REDACTED] way too close to that facility. I don't want me or my  
3| 13.2 | family or the wildlife at Botanical Gardens harmed in any way.

4| 12.2 | Your facility is not welcome here. We are in a very serious water shortage crisis. We  
3 cont.| 13.2 | have a problem with mosquitoes. This is not the place for your facility.  
1 cont.| 25.2 |

Thank you for your time.

1 cont.| 25.2 | We do not want you here.

Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 19.2

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding the proximity of the NBAF to residential areas. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. As described in Chapter 3 and summarized in Section 2.5 of the NBAF EIS, the impacts of activities during normal operations at any of the six site alternatives would likely be minor. Section 3.14 investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena accidents, external events, and intentional acts. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release are low. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF then site specific protocols would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies. These protocols would address emergency response considerations for populations residing within close proximity to the NBAF.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 13.2

DHS notes the commentors concern regarding the proximity of the site to the Botanical Garden. As indicated in Sections 3.8.3.2 and 3.8.3.3 of the NBAF EIS, construction and normal operations of the NBAF would have no direct impact on the State Botanical Garden. The NBAF would affect primarily pasture areas that have low wildlife habitat value due to their disturbed condition, lack of native vegetation, and lack of wildlife food and cover. The forested portion of the NBAF site along the Oconee River is a high value riparian wildlife corridor that connects the Botanical Garden with Whitehall Forest. However, impacts to the forested riparian area would be minor (0.2 acre), and these impacts would occur within the existing pasture fence-line in areas that have been disturbed by grazing. The high value riparian corridor would be preserved; and therefore, the proposed NBAF would not have significant direct impacts on wildlife. The potential impacts of an accidental release on wildlife are addressed in Section 3.8.9. Although the EIS acknowledges the potential for significant wildlife impacts in the event of an accidental release, the risk of such a release is extremely low (see Section 3.14). It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas and in areas with abundant wildlife. State-of-the-art biocontainment facilities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF. Furthermore, the purpose of NBAF is to combat diseases that could have significant effects on wildlife. Research at the NBAF would include the development of vaccines for wildlife that could prevent adverse impacts from a foreign introduction. DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding safe facility operations. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to



fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. An analysis of potential consequences of a pathogen (e.g., Rift Valley fever virus) becoming established in native mosquito populations, particularly in warm, humid climates, was evaluated in Sections 3.8.9, 3.10.9, and 3.14.

Comment No: 4

Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the proposed water use and existing water supply. Section 3.3 of the NBAF EIS includes an evaluation of infrastructure including potable water, and Section 3.7 includes an evaluation of water resources. As stated in Section 3.3.3.3.1, there is adequate capacity of 43,000,000 gallons per year, but some infrastructure improvements would be required. DHS notes the commentor's drought concerns and acknowledges current regional drought conditions. As described in Section 3.7.3.3.1, the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative would use approximately 118,000 gallons per day of potable water, an amount that is approximately 0.76% of Athens' current annual average of 15.5 million gallons per day usage. The NBAF annual potable water usage is expected to be approximately equivalent to the amount consumed by 228 residential homes.

## Anonymous PD0016, Anonymous PD0016

Page 1 of 1

PD0016

July 17, 2008

Yes,

- 1| 24.3 | I'd like to say that I certainly hope that your organization will be moving to Butner,  
North Carolina. I think it'll provide a lot of good jobs for this community, and as a  
2| 15.3 | matter of fact, I have members of my family that would like to go to work for you.

We have about 20 people in the community that raised cane when the federal prison came  
in and tried to scare everybody to death and they're the same people that are trying to do  
the same thing with your outfit.

God bless you.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 24.3

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 15.3

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative. The economic  
effects of the NBAF at the Umstead Research Farm Site are included in Section 3.10.7 of the NBAF  
EIS. During the 4-yr construction phase, total labor income is projected at approximately \$162 million  
(Section 3.10.7.2.1) while operation of the NBAF would generate approximately \$29 million (Section  
3.10.7.3.1) in labor income annually.

## Anonymous PD0019, Anonymous PD0019

## Page 1 of 1

PD0019

July 18, 2008

Hi,

1| 25.2 | We live in [REDACTED] Georgia. We do not want the NBAF here. We do not need you here.  
 2| 12.2 | You will ruin [REDACTED] city. We do not want you here. We are in a severe drought. You  
 3| 21.2 | would be using water that we need. You will be bringing a lot of insects that can escape  
 4| 15.2 | and cause us all kinds of diseases. I'm concerned for my family - for my children and my  
 5| 13.2 | grandchildren.

6| 19.2 | You will not really be helping the economy as you had said originally. There is no  
 4 cont.| 15.2 | reason for you to come here and spoil our town.

7| 8.0 | We are very concerned with all the power outages that have been happening at the Center  
 for Disease Control in Atlanta. If it happens there, certainly it could happen here.

1 cont.| 25.1 | We have a lovely small southern city. [REDACTED] We do not want you  
 here.

Please do not come to Athens. You're not welcome.

Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.2

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 12.2

DHS notes the commentor's drought concerns and acknowledges current regional drought conditions. As described in Section 3.7.3.3.1 of the NBAF EIS, the South Milledge Avenue Site Alternative would use approximately 118,000 gallons per day of potable water, an amount that is approximately 0.76% of Athens' current annual average of 15.5 million gallons per day usage. The NBAF annual potable water usage is expected to be approximately equivalent to the amount consumed by 228 residential homes.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 21.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding human health. A discussion of human health and safety including the potential risk and consequences of an accident occurring at the NBAF is included in Section 3.14. The potential economic effects of an accidental release at the South Milledge Avenue Site are described in Section 3.10.9.1 and Appendix D. As noted, the risks are very low for accidents to occur that would result in an accidental release, and mitigation measures would further reduce the risks.

Comment No: 4      Issue Code: 15.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The number of short-term and permanent jobs are discussed in Section 3.10. It is expected that approximately 2,700 direct temporary jobs would result from construction of the NBAF, with many of the jobs being filled locally. Approximately 483 permanent jobs, including the initial 326 direct jobs, would result from operation of the NBAF, with much of the scientific work force relocating to the region.

Comment No: 5      Issue Code: 13.2

DHS notes the commentor's concerns regarding safe facility operations. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. An analysis of potential consequences of a pathogen (e.g. Rift Valley fever virus) becoming established in native mosquito populations was evaluated in Section 3.8.9 and Section 3.10.9 of the NBAF EIS as well as in Section 3.14 (Health and Safety).

Comment No: 6      Issue Code: 19.2

DHS notes the commentor's concern. An evaluation of the effects of the NBAF on quality of life resources is included in Section 3.10. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Section 3.14.

Comment No: 7      Issue Code: 8.0

DHS notes the commentor's concerns about reliability of electric power to the NBAF. Section 3.3.3 of the NBAF EIS includes an assessment of the current infrastructure at the South Milledge Avenue Site and potential effects from construction and operation of the NBAF. No electric power constraints have been identified for the South Milledge Avenue Site. Should a site be selected for NBAF, any needed infrastructure improvements to ensure service reliability would be identified in accordance with the final facility design.

## Anonymous PD0023, Anonymous PD0023

Page 1 of 1

PD0023

July 24, 2008

1| 25.1

I would like to register opposition to building a Number Four facility at Plum Island. I think there are still some unanswered questions that still remain with regard to the effect on humans and also I just feel that Plum Island is not a remote location as indicated. It seems like 1.5 miles from Orient Point is not remote. I don't know how that could possibly be considered remote. And also, I think that the impact upon the land beyond Plum Island needs to have a lot of questions answered about it as well with regards to airborne pathogens and their effect on humans.

So, definitely as a resident of [REDACTED] I definitely oppose building the Number Four facility at Plum Island.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Plum Island Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0024, Anonymous PD0024

## Page 1 of 1

PD0024

July 24, 2008

Yes,

1) 25.4 | I'd like to express my opposition to placing this bio agro defense lab at Kansas State University; Manhattan, Kansas.

2) 11.4 | There are a number of geographic, geologic faults in the Manhattan area. There's one north of Manhattan - Tuttle Creek Dam - the east end of Tuttle Creek Dam is built right on a fault. There's several other faults to the east of Manhattan, the Lewisville faults and others.

3) 21.4 | The ground is not...the ground is not....presents a potential hazard for the lab, the large number of foreign students in the area, presents a security risk, I think, and this lab ought to be isolated not in a .... for example, where it's located now on Plum Island as opposed to the center of the United States where an accident or a rupture of the facility could contaminate thousands of square miles and result in the deaths of millions of animals and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people.

5) 19.4 |

Thank you.

Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.4

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Manhattan Campus Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 11.4

Geologic concerns are addressed in Section 3.6 of the NBAF EIS. In addition, detailed geologic information would be evaluated during the final design phase of the project.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 21.4

A separate Threat and Risk Assessment (designated as For Official Use Only)(TRA) was developed outside of the EIS process in accordance with the requirements stipulated in federal regulations. The purpose of the TRA was to identify potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses associated with the NBAF . The TRA considered site specific data such as local crime statistics, diversity of the local population; including the presence of non-US citizens, and capabilities of the local emergency response organizations. The TRA analysis provided recommendations for the most prudent measures to establish a reasonable level of risk for the security of operations of the NBAF and public safety. Because of the importance of the NBAF mission and the associated work with potential high-consequence biological pathogens, critical information related to the potential for adverse consequences as a result of intentional acts has been incorporated into the NEPA process. The TRA and security actions that would be implemented based on TRA recommendations, are confidential due to NBAF security considerations. In addition, employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures as set out in Section 3.14.3.4 of the NBAF EIS.

Comment No: 4      Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.

Comment No: 5      Issue Code: 19.4

DHS notes the commentor's concern regarding the potential consequences from a NBAF accident. Section 3.14 investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena accidents,, external events, and intentional acts. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release are low. The specific objective of the hazard identification, accident analysis, and risk assessment is to identify the likelihood and consequences from accidents or intentional subversive acts. In addition to identifying the potential for or likelihood of the scenarios leading to adverse consequences, this analysis provides support for the identification of specific engineering and administrative controls to either prevent a pathogen release or mitigate the consequences of such a release. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low.

## Anonymous PD0027, Anonymous PD0027

## Page 1 of 1

PD0027

July 27, 2008

Hi,

1| 25.3 | I'm calling to express my concern and my opposition, my strong opposition, to the bio disease lab that is proposed for Butner, North Carolina. I believe it's NBAF.

2| 19.3 | That just arouses all sorts of concern in me. I worry about contamination to the area. I worry about people becoming ill here, people having to evacuate their homes. I worry about.... just mass danger really, to people. I also worry about what it will do to property value. I mean this is a booming area here near RTP, and people love to move here and work here, and property values have held steady here. And I foresee where this could have potentially detrimental effects on property value and that sort of thing. And I just don't see where....from the article I read in the *Independent* ...how it really would help the State of North Carolina enough to be willing to take on the kind of potential liabilities that that sort of facility in this area could bring.

3| 15.3 | So I just want to voice my strong opposition to it.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1      Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2      Issue Code: 19.3

DHS notes the commentor's concern. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. As described in Chapter 3 and summarized in Section 2.5 of the NBAF EIS, the impacts of activities during normal operations at any of the six site alternatives would likely be minor. Section 3.14 investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents. Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena accidents, external events, and intentional acts. Although some accidents are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release are low. Waste management (Section 3.13) describes the processes that would be used to control and dispose of liquid and solid waste from the NBAF, and Sections 3.3 and 3.7 describe standard methods used to prevent and mitigate potential effects of spills and runoff. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF then site specific protocols would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies, that would address decontamination procedures.

Comment No: 3      Issue Code: 15.3

The effects of the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative on housing is discussed in Section 3.10.7 of the NBAF EIS. As stated in the NBAF EIS, the housing market would be able to meet the increase in housing demand (326 employees in total), relative to the estimated growth of the existing population between 2007 and 2012 (188,278). It is possible that with the relocation of highly skilled workers to the immediate area, property values could increase due to an increase in demand, and there is no empirical evidence that a facility such as the NBAF would reduce property values in the study area. Therefore, the overall effect of the NBAF on housing market conditions would be negligible.

**Anonymous PD0031, Anonymous PD0031**

**Page 1 of 1**

**PD0031**

July 28, 2008

1 | 25.1 | I have lived in [REDACTED] for 60 years. I oppose the bio safety Level-4 facility on Plum Island.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.1

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Plum Island Site Alternative.



**Anonymous PD0032, Anonymous PD0032****Page 1 of 1****PD0032**

July 28, 2008

1| 25.3

The bio agro defense facility is not wanted in Butner, North Carolina. It will be deadly to the people and to the area, and the whole southeastern area.

Please no bio agro lab in this area. It is not wanted.

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0034, Anonymous PD0034

Page 1 of 1

PD0034

July 29, 2008

Hi,

1| 25.3 | I'd like to say that I am not interested in having the bio lab here in North Carolina.

2| 5.0 | Please reconsider and build it somewhere else.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

Comment No: 2Issue Code: 5.0

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative.

## Anonymous PD0035, Anonymous PD0035

Page 1 of 1

PD0035

July 31, 2008

Yes,

1| 25.3 I am highly opposed to this facility being built in Butner, North Carolina. I think it is bad for the growth of this community. It could actually be of danger to the people.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 25.3

DHS notes the commentor's opposition to the Umstead Research Farm Site Alternative. DHS notes the commentor's views on risk. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated with a minimal degree of risk, regardless of the site chosen.

**Anonymous PD0037, Anonymous PD0037**

**Page 1 of 1**

**PD0037**

August 2, 2008

1| 27.0

Yes, I live [REDACTED] and I feel it could to be located at Kansas State. It's wrong for it to be in the center of our country. It's not a safe (this phone message is unclear).

Thank you.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 27.0

DHS notes the commentor's statement.

**Anonymous PD0042, Anonymous PD0042**

**Page 1 of 1**

PD0042

August 5, 2008

Yes Sir,

1 | 24.1 | We live in the [REDACTED] We do not need to have Plum Island ignored. It has done well where it is. Keep it at Plum Island. We don't need it.

Thank you.

Comment No: 1

Issue Code: 24.1

DHS notes the commentor's support for the Plum Island Site Alternative.